



Chandra and JVLA Observations of *HST* Frontier Fields Cluster MACS J0717.5+3745

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Abstract

To investigate the relationship between thermal and non-thermal components in merger galaxy clusters, we present deep JVLA and *Chandra* observations of the *HST* Frontier Fields cluster MACS J0717.5+3745. The *Chandra* image shows a complex merger event, with at least four components belonging to different merging subclusters. Northwest of the cluster, ~ 0.7 Mpc from the center, there is a ram-pressure-stripped core that appears to have traversed the densest parts of the cluster after entering the intracluster medium (ICM) from the direction of a galaxy filament to the southeast. We detect a density discontinuity north-northeast of this core, which we speculate is associated with a cold front. Our radio images reveal new details for the complex radio relic and radio halo in this cluster. In addition, we discover several new filamentary radio sources with sizes of 100–300 kpc. A few of these seem to be connected to the main radio relic, while others are either embedded within the radio halo or projected onto it. A narrow-angled-tailed (NAT) radio galaxy, a cluster member, is located at the center of the radio relic. The steep spectrum tails of this active galactic nucleus lead into the large radio relic where the radio spectrum flattens again. This morphological connection between the NAT radio galaxy and relic provides evidence for re-acceleration (revival) of fossil electrons. The presence of hot $\gtrsim 20$ keV ICM gas detected by *Chandra* near the relic location provides additional support for this re-acceleration scenario.

Key words: galaxies: clusters: individual (MACS J0717.5+3745) – galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium – radiation mechanisms: non-thermal – X-rays: galaxies: clusters

1. Introduction

Merging galaxy clusters are excellent laboratories to investigate cluster formation and to explore how the particles that produce cluster-scale diffuse radio emission are accelerated. A textbook example of an extreme merging cluster is MACS J0717.5+3745. MACS J0717.5+3745 was discovered by Edge et al. (2003) as part of the MAssive Cluster Survey (MACS; Ebeling et al. 2001) and is located at a redshift of $z = 0.5458$. The cluster is very hot, with a global X-ray temperature of 11.6 ± 0.5 keV (Ebeling et al. 2007). MACS J0717.5+3745 is one of the most complex and dynamically disturbed clusters known. The cluster consists of

at least four separate merging substructures. Regions of the intracluster medium (ICM) are heated to $\gtrsim 20$ keV (Ma et al. 2008, 2009; Limousin et al. 2012, 2016). A study of the Sunyaev–Zel’dovich (SZ) effect provided further evidence for the presence of shock-heated gas (Mroczkowski et al. 2012). Mroczkowski et al. (2012) and Sayers et al. (2013) found evidence for a kinetic SZ signal for one of the subclusters, confirming the large velocity offset (≈ 3000 km s^{−1}) found earlier from spectroscopy data (Ma et al. 2009). A recent study reported the detection of a second kinetic SZ component belonging to another subcluster (Adam et al. 2016). Connected to the cluster in the southeast is a ~ 4 Mpc (projected length) galaxy and gas filament (Ebeling et al. 2004; Jauzac et al. 2012).

Because of the large total mass ($M_{\text{vir}} = (3.5 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$; Umetsu et al. 2014), complex mass distribution, and relatively shallow mass profile (Zitrin et al. 2009), the cluster provides a large area of sky with high lensing

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magnification and is thus selected as part of the Cluster Lensing And Supernova survey with *Hubble* (CLASH, Postman et al. 2012; Medezinski et al. 2013) and the *HST* Frontier Fields program²³ (Lotz et al. 2014, 2016) to find high- z lensed objects.

Ma et al. (2009) reported decrements in the ICM temperature near two of the subclusters of MACS J0717.5+3745, which they interpret as remnants of cool cores. For one of these subclusters, Ma et al. (2009) measured a temperature 5.7 keV temperature, suggesting that this component is still at the early stage of merging. Diego et al. (2015) found that one of the dark matter components (the one furthest to the northwest) has a significant offset from the closest X-ray peak. Significant offsets between the lensing and X-ray peaks are expected in the case of a high-speed collision in the plane of the sky.

Previous radio studies of the cluster have focused on diffuse radio emission that is present in the cluster (Bonafede et al. 2009; van Weeren et al. 2009b; Pandey-Pommier et al. 2013). The cluster hosts a giant radio halo extending over an area of about 1.6 Mpc. Polarized emission from the radio halo was detected by Bonafede et al. (2009). The radio luminosity (1.4 GHz radio power) is the largest known for any cluster, in agreement with the cluster’s large mass and high global temperature (e.g., Cassano et al. 2013).

The cluster also hosts a large 0.7–0.8 Mpc radio relic. It has been suggested that the radio relic in the cluster traces a large-scale shock wave that originated from the ongoing merger events (van Weeren et al. 2009b), or alternatively, from an accretion shock related to the large-scale filament in the southeast (Bonafede et al. 2009).

In the standard scenario (Enßlin et al. 1998) for radio relics, particles are accelerated at the shock via the Diffusive Shock Acceleration (DSA) mechanism in a first order Fermi process (e.g., Drury 1983). A problem with this interpretation is that shock Mach numbers in clusters are typically low ($\mathcal{M} \lesssim 3$), in which case DSA is thought to be inefficient. For that reason, several alternative models have been proposed including shock re-acceleration (e.g., Markevitch et al. 2005; Giacintucci et al. 2008; Kang & Ryu 2011; Kang et al. 2012; Pinzke et al. 2013) and turbulent re-acceleration (Fujita et al. 2015). Recent work from particle-in-cell (PIC) simulations indicates that cluster shocks can inject electrons from the thermal pool (Guo et al. 2014a, 2014b) and that these electrons gain energy via the shock drift acceleration (SDA) mechanism.

In van Weeren et al. (2016b), we presented Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (JVLA) and *Chandra* observations of lensed radio and X-ray sources located behind MACS J0717.5+3745. In this work, we present the results of the *Chandra* and JVLA observations of the cluster itself. A *Chandra* analysis of the large-scale filament to the southeast is described in a separate letter (Ogrean et al. 2016). The data reduction and observations are described in Section 2. The radio and X-ray images, and the spectral index and ICM temperature maps are presented Sections 3 and 4. This is followed by a discussion and conclusions in Sections 5 and 6. In this paper we adopt a Λ CDM cosmology with $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega_m = 0.3$, and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$. With the adopted cosmology, $1''$ corresponds to a physical scale of 6.387 kpc at $z = 0.5458$. All our images are in the J2000 coordinate system.

2. Observations and Data Reduction

2.1. JVLA Observations

JVLA observations of MACS J07175+3745 were obtained in the L-, S-, and C-bands, covering the frequency range from 1 to 6.5 GHz. An overview of the frequency bands and observations is given in Table 1. The total recorded bandwidth was 1 GHz for the L-band and was 2 GHz for the S- and C-bands. For the primary calibrators we used 3C138 and 3C147. J0713+4349 was included as a secondary calibrator. All four polarization products were recorded.

The data were reduced with CASA (McMullin et al. 2007) version 4.5 and data from the different observing runs were all processed in the same way. The data reduction procedure is described in more detail in van Weeren et al. (2016b). To summarize, the data were calibrated for the antenna position offsets, elevation dependent gains, global delay, cross-hand delay, bandpass, polarization leakage and angles, and temporal gain variations using the primary and secondary calibrator sources. RFI was identified and flagged with the AOFlogger (Offringa et al. 2010). The calibration solutions from the primary and secondary calibrator sources were applied to the target field and several rounds of self-calibration were carried out to refine the gain solutions.

After the individual data sets were calibrated, the observations from the different configurations (for the same frequency band) were combined and imaged together. One extra round of self-calibration was carried out, using the combined images, to align the data sets from the different configurations.

Deep continuum images were produced with WSClean (Offringa et al. 2014) in the three different frequency bands. We employed the wide-band clean and multiscale algorithms. Clean masks were employed at all stages and made with the PyBDSM source detection package (Mohan & Rafferty 2015). The final images were corrected for the primary beam attenuation using the beam models provided by CASA.

Images were made with different weighting schemes to emphasize different aspects of the radio emission. An overview of the image properties is given in Table 2. We also produced deeper images by stacking the L-, S-, and C-band images (equal weights) after convolving them to a common resolution.²⁴

2.1.1. Spectral Index Maps

For making radio spectral index maps, we imaged the data with CASA, employing w-projection (Cornwell et al. 2005, 2008) and multiscale clean (Cornwell 2008) with `nterms=3` (Rau & Cornwell 2011). Three separate continuum images (corresponding to the L-, S-, and C-bands) were created at reference frequencies of 1.5, 3.0, and 5.5 GHz, respectively. Inner uv-range cuts were employed based on minimum uv-distance provided by the C-band data. In addition, we used uniform weighting to correct for differences in the uv-plane sampling. Different uv-tapers were used to produce images at resolutions of $1''.5$, $2''.5$, $5''$, and $10''$. The remaining minor differences in the beam sizes (after using the uv-tapers) were taken out by convolving the images to the same resolution. The images were corrected for the primary beam attenuation.

²³ <http://www.stsci.edu/hst/campaigns/frontier-fields/>

²⁴ The large change in the primary beam size prevents a simple joint deconvolution and would have required the computationally expensive wide-band A-Projection algorithm (Bhatnagar et al. 2013).

Table 1
JVLA Observations

	Observation Date	Frequency Coverage (GHz)	Channel Width (MHz)	Integration Time (s)	On Source Time ^a (hr)	LAS ^b (")
L-band A-array	2013 Mar 28	1–2	1	1	5.0	36
L-band B-array	2013 Nov 25	1–2	1	3	5.0	120
L-band C-array	2014 Nov 11	1–2	1	5	3.25	970
L-band D-array	2014 Aug 9	1–2	1	5	2.25	970
S-band A-array	2013 Feb 22	2–4	2	1	5.0	18
S-band B-array	2013 Nov 5	2–4	2	3	5.0	58
S-band C-array	2014 Oct 20	2–4	2	5	3.25	490
S-band D-array	2014 Aug 3	2–4	2	5	3.25	490
C-band B-array	2013 Sep 30	4.5–6.5	2	3	5.0	29
C-band C-array	2014 Oct 13	4.5–6.5	2	5	3.25	240
C-band D-array	2014 Aug 2	4.5–6.5	2	5	3.25	240

Notes.^a Quarter hour rounding.^b Largest angular scale that can be recovered by these observations.**Table 2**
JVLA Image Properties

Frequency (GHz)	Resolution (")	Weighting ^a	uv-taper (")	r.m.s. noise (μ Jy)
1–2	1"3 × 1"1	Briggs	...	5.1
1–2	2"6 × 2"4	Briggs	2	4.9
1–2	5"0 × 4"9	uniform	5	7.9
1–2	10"1 × 9"9	uniform	10	15
2–4	0"85 × 0"59	Briggs	...	1.9
2–4	2"3 × 2"2	Briggs	2	2.0
2–4	5"0 × 4.9	uniform	5	6.9
2–4	10"1 × 9"9	uniform	10	6.2
4.5–6.5	1"7 × 1"2	Briggs	...	2.2
4.5–6.5	3"0 × 2"5	Briggs	2	2.0
4.5–6.5	5"0 × 4"9	uniform	5	2.4
4.5–6.5	10"1 × 9"9	uniform	10	3.9

Note.^a For all images made with Briggs (1995) weighting we used `robust=0`.

We created the spectral index maps by fitting a first order polynomial through the three flux measurements at 1.5, 3.0, and 5.5 GHz in $\log(S) - \log(\nu)$ space. The spectral index thus represents the average spectral index in the 1.0–6.5 GHz band, neglecting any spectral curvature. Pixels with values below $2.5\sigma_{\text{rms}}$ in any of the three maps were blanked.

2.2. Chandra Observations

MACS J0717.5+3745 was observed with *Chandra* for a total of 243 ks between 2001 and 2013. A summary of the observations is presented in Table 3. The data sets were reduced with CIAO v4.7 and CALDB v4.6.5, following the same methodology that was described by Oggean et al. (2015). ObsID 1655 was contaminated by flares even after the standard cleaning was applied. Given that the exposure time of ObsID 1655 is <10% of the total exposure time, we decided to exclude this ObsID from the analysis.

The instrumental background was modeled using stowed background event files appropriate for the dates of the observations (period B event files for ObsID 4200 and period F event files for ObsIDs 16235 and 16305). The stowed

background spectra and images were normalized to have the same 10–12 keV count rate as the corresponding ObsID.

Point sources were detected with the CIAO script `wavdetect` using wavelet scales of 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, and 32 pixels and ellipses with radii 5σ around the centers of the detected sources. These point sources were excluded from the analysis.

2.3. Chandra Background Modeling

Background spectra were extracted from a region outside 2.5 Mpc from the cluster center. The instrumental background was subtracted from them and the sky background was modeled with the sum of an unabsorbed thermal component (APEC; Smith et al. 2001) describing emission from the Local Hot Bubble (LHB), an absorbed thermal component describing emission from the Galactic Halo (GH), and an absorbed power-law component describing emission from unresolved point sources. We used photoelectric absorption cross-sections from Verner et al. (1996) and the elemental abundances from Feldman (1992). The hydrogen column density in the direction of MACS J0717.5+3745 was fixed to $8.4 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, which is the sum of the weighted average atomic hydrogen column density from the Leiden–Argentine–Bonn (Kalberla et al. 2005) Survey and the molecular hydrogen column density determined by Willingale et al. (2013) from *Swift* data. The temperatures and the normalizations of the thermal components were free in the fit, but linked between different data sets. The temperature and normalization of the LHB component are difficult to constrain from the *Chandra* data (its temperature is ~ 0.1 keV), so we determined them from a *ROSAT* spectrum extracted from an annulus with radii 0.15 and 1 degrees around the cluster center (which is beyond R_{200}). The index of the power-law component was fixed to 1.41 (De Luca & Molendi 2004). The normalizations of the power-law components of the *Chandra* spectra were free in the fit, but the power-law normalizations of ObsIDs 16235 and 16305 were linked since the observations were taken close in time. The power-law normalization of the *ROSAT* spectrum was fixed to $8.85 \times 10^{-7} \text{ photons keV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$ (Moretti et al. 2003). The instrumental background-subtracted spectra were modeled with `xspec`²⁵ v12.8.2 (Arnaud 1996). The

²⁵ AtomDB version is 2.0.2.

Table 3
Summary of the *Chandra* Observations

ObsID	Instrument	Mode	Start Date	Exposure Time (ks)	Filtered Exposure Time (ks)
1655 ^a	ACIS-I	FAINT	2001 Jan 29	19.9	15.8
4200	ACIS-I	VFAINT	2004 Jan 10	59.0	52.6
16235	ACIS-I	FAINT	2013 Dec 16	70.2	63.4
16305	ACIS-I	VFAINT	2013 Dec 11	94.3	82.6

Note.

^a ObsID 1655 was excluded from the analysis, see Section 2.2.

Table 4
Best-fitting X-Ray Sky Background Parameters

Model Component	Parameter	<i>Chandra</i>	<i>ROSAT</i>
LHB	kT (keV)	0.135 (fixed)	$0.135^{+0.07}_{-0.08}$
	norm ($\text{cm}^{-5} \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$)	7.21×10^{-7} (fixed)	$7.21^{+0.30}_{-0.18} \times 10^{-7}$
GH	kT (keV)	$0.59^{+0.09}_{-0.08}$	$0.64^{+0.30}_{-0.28}$
	norm ($\text{cm}^{-5} \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$)	$2.79^{+0.45}_{-0.44} \times 10^{-7}$	$3.79^{+2.26}_{-0.85} \times 10^{-7}$
Power law	Γ	1.41 (fixed)	1.41 (fixed)
	norm at 1 keV ($\text{photons keV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$)	ObsID 4200	8.85×10^{-7} (fixed)
		ObsIDs 16235	$7.00^{+0.51}_{-0.56} \times 10^{-7}$
		ObsIDs 16305	$4.45^{+0.33}_{-0.39} \times 10^{-7}$

Chandra spectra were binned to a minimum of 1 count/bin, and modeled using the extended C-statistic (Cash 1979; Wachter et al. 1979). The spectra were fitted in the energy band 0.5–7 keV.²⁶ The best-fitting sky background parameters are summarized in Table 4. Throughout the paper, the uncertainties for the X-ray derived quantities are quoted at the 1σ level, unless explicitly stated.

3. Radio Results

3.1. Continuum Images

The high-resolution ($0''.85 \times 0''.59$) 2–4 GHz S-band image is shown in Figure 1. Combined wide-band L-, S-, and C-band images at $1''.6$ and $5''$ resolution are shown in Figure 2. The most prominent source in the images is the large filamentary radio relic, with an embedded Narrow Angle Tail (NAT) galaxy ($z = 0.5528$, Ebeling et al. 2014) at the center of the main structure. The tails of the radio source are aligned with the radio relic. Various components of the radio relic are labeled as in van Weeren et al. (2009b) on Figure 1.

A bright linearly shaped FRI radio source (Fanaroff & Riley 1974) is located to the southeast. This source is associated with an elliptical foreground galaxy (2MASX J07173724 +3744224) located at $z = 0.1546$ (Bonafede et al. 2009). Another tailed radio source at the far southeast is located at $z = 0.5399$ (Ebeling et al. 2014), see Figure 2. This radio galaxy is probably falling into the cluster along the large-scale galaxy filament to the southeast (e.g., Ebeling et al. 2004), given that the tails align with the galaxy filament and point to the southeast. The combined L-, S-, and C-band JVLA images at resolutions of $1''.6$, $2''.7$, and $5''$ —to highlight details around the radio halo area—are shown in Figure 3.

For the relic, we measure a largest linear size (LLS) of ≈ 800 kpc, similar to previous studies. Our new images are

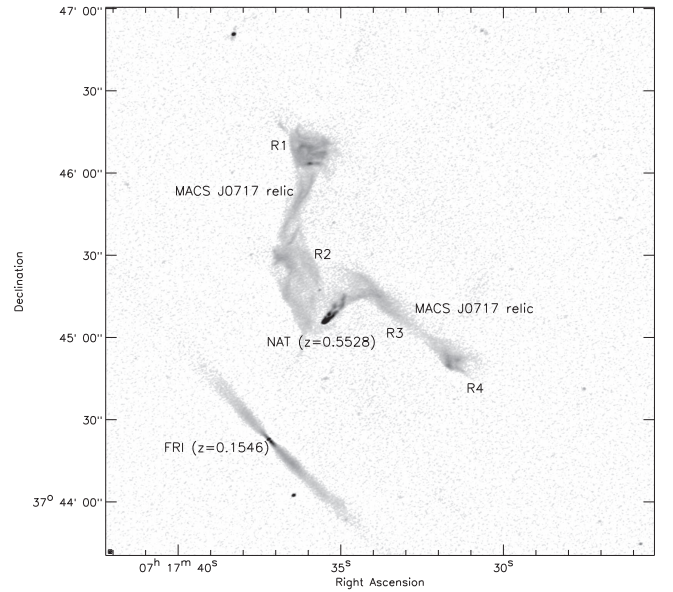


Figure 1. S-band 2–4 GHz combined JVLA A-, B-, C-, and D-array image made with Briggs (1995) weighting ($\text{robust}=0$). The image has a resolution of $0''.85 \times 0''.59$ and an rms noise level of $1.9 \mu\text{Jy beam}^{-1}$. Components of the radio relic are labeled as in van Weeren et al. (2009b).

significantly deeper and have better resolution than previous studies of this source. They reveal many new details in the relic and show that the relic has a significant amount of filamentary structure on scales down to ~ 30 kpc. Small-scale filamentary structures have also been seen for other relics, such as the Toothbrush cluster (van Weeren et al. 2012, 2016a), A3667 (Röttgering et al. 1997), A3376 (Bagchi et al. 2006), and in particular for Abell 2256 (Clarke & Enßlin 2006; van Weeren et al. 2009a; Owen et al. 2014).

We also note several narrow filaments of emission originating from the relic. These are marked with red arrows in Figure 3. These filaments have lengths of 50–150 kpc and

²⁶ The same energy band was used for all the spectral fits presented in this paper.

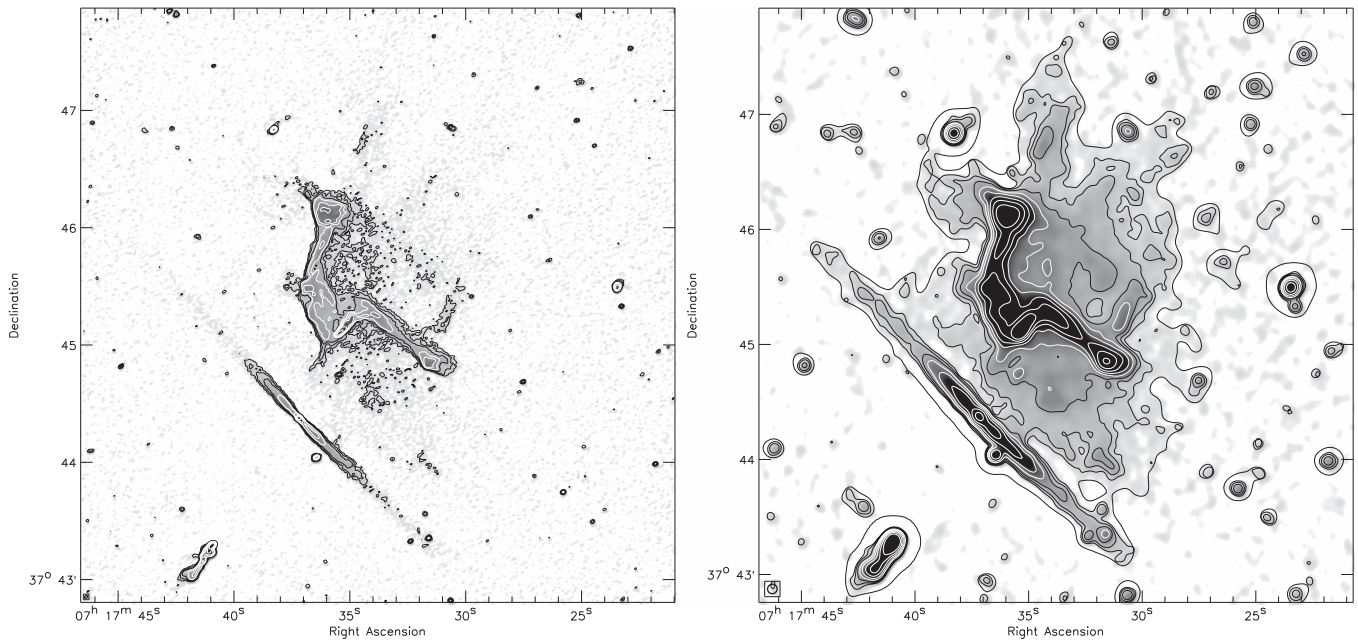


Figure 2. Left: deep wide-band combined L-, S-, and C-band image with a resolution of $1''.6$. Contour levels are drawn at $[1, 2, 4, \dots] \times 4\sigma_{\text{rms}}$. These individual L-, S-, and C-band images were made with Briggs (1995) weighting (`robust=0`). Right: deep wide-band combined L-, S-, and C-band image with a resolution of $5''$. Contours are plotted in the same way as in the left panel, with the exception of the lowest contour level. The lowest contour level comes from the $10''$ resolution image and is drawn at $5\sigma_{\text{rms}}$. The $5''$ and $10''$ resolution images were made with uniform weighting and tapered to these respective resolutions.

widths as small as 10 kpc. In addition, there are two larger regions of extended emission that are connected to the radio relic. These extended regions are marked with blue arrows.

The radio halo component extends to the south and north of R3 and west of the R2 (see Figure 1 for the labeling). Our images also reveal a significant amount of structure around the radio halo, including several filamentary features. They are marked with black arrows in Figure 3. The brightest of these is connected with the R3 component of the main radio relic and has a LLS of about 200 kpc.

Another prominent ~ 200 kpc NS elongated radio filament is located at the northern outskirts of the cluster. This filament has a well defined boundary on its eastern side, while it fades gradually toward the west. A fainter filament with a similar size and north–south orientation is located northeast of it. Evidence of two other filaments, with a northwest orientation, are seen at the northern boundary of the radio halo. Another ~ 100 kpc long structure is located at the southern end of the radio halo. Three additional embedded filamentary structures in the radio halo are found west of R2. These are marked with dashed-line black arrows (Figure 3). We also find two enhancements in the halo emission which we marked with white dashed-line circles.

Bonafede et al. (2009) suggested the presence of faint radio emission to the southeast, along the large-scale galaxy filament (not to be confused with the smaller radio filaments in the cluster) in the 325 MHz image from the WENSS survey (Rengelink et al. 1997). We do not find evidence for this in our deeper observations. We speculate that the emission seen at 325 MHz could have been the result of blending of several compact sources due to the low-resolution of the 325 MHz image. We also note that the emission is not found in the low-frequency GMRT 610 and 235 MHz observations published by Pandey-Pommier et al. (2013).

3.1.1. Spectral Index Maps

Spectral index maps at resolutions of $10''$, $5''$, $2''.5$, and $1''.2$ are shown in Figure 4. As explained in Section 2.1.1, these were made by fitting straight power-laws through flux measurements at 1.5, 3.0, and 5.5 GHz. The spectral index uncertainty maps are shown in the Appendix.

The central NAT source shows clear evidence of spectral steepening in the higher resolution spectral index maps, from about -0.5 to -2.5 toward the northwest. The steepening trend is expected for spectral ageing along the tails of the source. The extracted spectra, from the maps at $2''.5$ resolution, as a function of distance from the radio core are displayed in Figure 5. In the lower resolution spectral index maps this steepening is reduced, which is expected, since the reduced resolution causes mixing of emission from nearby regions (i.e., the relic) with flatter spectra. Evidence for spectral steepening along the tails is also found at the far southeast tailed source ($z = 0.5399$), from -0.6 at the core to -1.6 at the end of the tail.

The lobes of the foreground ($z = 0.1546$) FRI source have a relatively flat spectral index of about -0.5 to -0.6 (within a distance of ~ 0.5 (~ 80 kpc) from the core), while the core has an inverted spectrum with $\alpha \approx +0.5$. Little steepening is seen along the lobes of the source, from about -0.6 to -0.8 . The LAS of $3.5'$ corresponds to a physical size of 560 kpc at the source redshift.

Radio relics often display spectral index gradients, with the spectral index steepening in the direction of the cluster center (e.g., Clarke & Enßlin 2006; Giacintucci et al. 2008; van Weeren et al. 2010; Bonafede et al. 2012; Kale et al. 2012; Stroe et al. 2013). This spectral steepening is explained by synchrotron and Inverse Compton (IC) losses in the post-shock region of an outward traveling shock front. We also find a spectral index gradient in MACS J0717.5+3745, with the

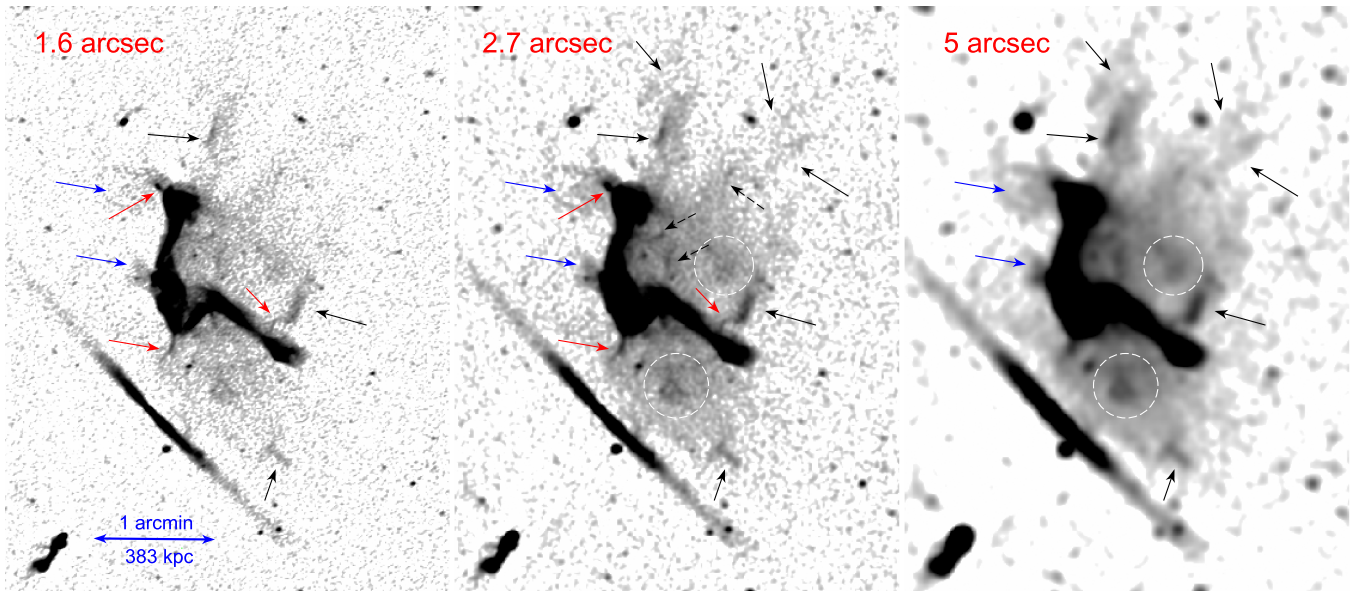


Figure 3. Wide-band 1.0–6.5 GHz images of the cluster at resolutions of $1''.6$, $2''.7$ and $5''$. The weighting schemes to make the $1''.6$ and $5''$ resolution images are given in the caption of Figure 2. The $2''.7$ resolution image was made with Briggs (1995) weighting (`robust=0`) and a uv-taper. These wide-band images reveal a significant amount of fine-scale structure in the extended radio emission. Narrow filaments extending from the relic are indicated with red arrows, diffuse components extending from the relic with blue arrows, and (small) filaments in the general region of the halo with black (dashed-line) arrows. Two enhancements in the radio halo emission are indicated with white dashed-line circles.

spectral index decreasing from about -0.9 to $\lesssim -1.6$ toward to west. This trend is particularly pronounced for R4 (lower left panel of Figure 4).

This spectral steepening is also clearly seen in the spectral index profile (between 1.5 and 5.5 GHz) extracted across the relic in two regions, see Figure 5. Hints of this east–west trend of steepening across the relic were noted before by van Weeren et al. (2009b). For both regions marked by the black and red boxes, we find steepening from -1.0 to about -1.6 . No clear spectral index trends were reported by Bonafede et al. (2009), but this can be explained by the lack of signal-to-noise compared to our new JVLA observations.

The spectral index distribution for the radio relic around the central NAT source is more complex. This is not too surprising given that the relic in MACS J0717.5+3745 has an irregular asymmetric morphology, likely the result of the complex quadruple merger event, and is projected relatively close to the cluster center, implying that the structure is not necessarily observed close to edge-on (Vazza et al. 2012).

We also find evidence for east–west spectral steepening, from about -1.0 to -1.5 , across the brighter northern filament (blue region, Figure 5). However, the uncertainties are significant as is indicated on the plot. The bright filament just north of R4 has a flatter spectrum (-1.1) than the halo emission in the vicinity. This is also the case for the filament at the southernmost part of the radio halo. The radio halo spectral index varies between -1.2 and about ≈ -2 (the region south of R4).

4. X-Ray Results

4.1. Global X-Ray Properties

In Figure 6, we present the *Chandra* 0.5–4 keV image of the cluster, vignetting- and exposure-corrected. This image shows the main structures, as found earlier by Ma et al. (2009). The properties of the megaparsec-scale X-ray filament to the southeast of the cluster will be discussed by Oggean et al.

(2016). *Chandra* images with JVLA radio contours and the surface mass density (derived from a lensing analysis, Ishigaki et al. 2015) overlaid, are shown in Figure 7. An optical Subaru-CHFT image overlaid with X-ray contours is shown in Figure 9. Four different substructures (A–D) are labeled, following Ma et al. (2009).

The X-ray emission of the cluster is complex, consisting of a bar-shaped structure to the southeast with a size of 800×300 kpc. The bar consists of two separate components (C and D, see Figures 6 and 9). These two components are likely associated with two separate merging subclusters and are also detected in the mass surface density map. X-ray surface brightness profiles across the bar along two rectangular boxes are presented in Figure 8. These profiles show that the western edge of the bar is cut off more abruptly than the eastern edge. We did not attempt to fit a density model to the edge because of the unknown (and likely complex) geometry.

The brightest part of the ICM consists of a V-shape structure, which is associated with major mass component B. To the northwest, an elongated, bullet-like X-ray substructure is seen, with a sharp boundary on its northern edge. This structure seems to be associated with mass component A, and is also seen in the mass surface density map from Ishigaki et al. (2015). However, Johnson et al. (2014) and Limousin et al. (2016) place the center of the westernmost mass component about $0''.5$ east of the center of the X-ray component. We discuss this “fly-through” bullet-like core in more detail in Section 4.3. A small “clump” of gas is found just north of the bar (again best seen in Figure 6, located at the cyan circle in Figure 7).

From Figure 7 we find that the radio filament north of R4 is aligned with the west part of the V-shaped structure. The southernmost radio filament (Figure 3) coincides with the southern end of the X-ray bar. The two northern filaments (north of R1) are located in the faint X-ray outskirts of the cluster.

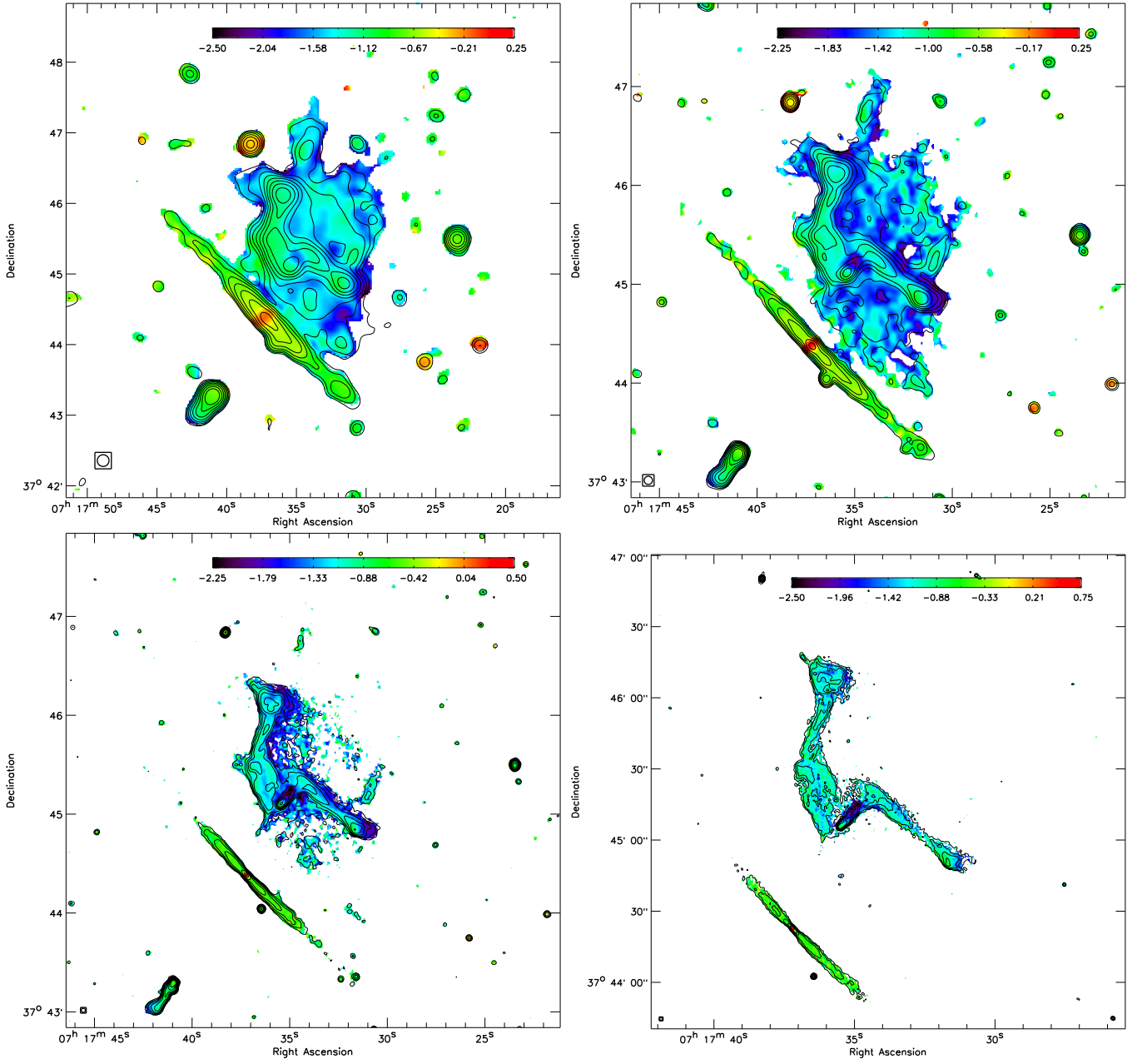


Figure 4. Spectral index maps at $10''$, $5''$, $2''/5$, and $1''/2$ resolution (top left to bottom right). Black contours are drawn at levels of $[1, 2, 4, \dots] \times 5\sigma_{\text{rms}}$ and are from the S-band image. Pixels with values below $2.5\sigma_{\text{rms}}$ in the individual maps were blanked. The corresponding spectral index uncertainty maps are displayed in Figure 15.

In the southeast, the radio halo emission roughly follows the outline of the bar. North of R4 the halos follows the bright X-ray region consisting of the V-shaped structure and emission north of it. The western part of the cluster is devoid of diffuse radio emission.

To measure the global X-ray properties of the cluster, we extracted *Chandra* spectra in a circle with a radius of $R_{500} = 1.69$ Mpc (Mantz et al. 2010) around R.A. = $07^{\text{h}}17^{\text{m}}32^{\text{s}}.1$ and decl. = $+37^{\circ}45'21''$. The spectra were instrumental background-subtracted and modeled as the sum of absorbed thermal ICM emission and sky background emission. The sky background model was fixed to the model summarized in Table 4. The temperature, metallicity, and normalization of the thermal component describing ICM emission were left free in the fit.

We measured $T_{500} = 12.2^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$ keV, $Z = 0.21 \pm 0.03 Z_{\odot}$, and a 0.1–2.4 keV luminosity of $(2.35 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{45}$ erg s $^{-1}$.

4.2. Temperature Map

To map the ICM temperature, we used CONTBIN (Sanders 2006) to bin the surface brightness map smoothed to a “signal”-to-noise of 10 in individual regions with a uniform “signal”-to-noise ratio of 55. Here, by “signal” we refer not only to the ICM signal, but rather to ICM and sky background signal combined; the noise is the instrumental background emission. We extracted total spectra and instrumental background spectra from each of the individual regions and modeled them as the sum of absorbed thermal emission from the ICM and sky background emission. The parameters of the

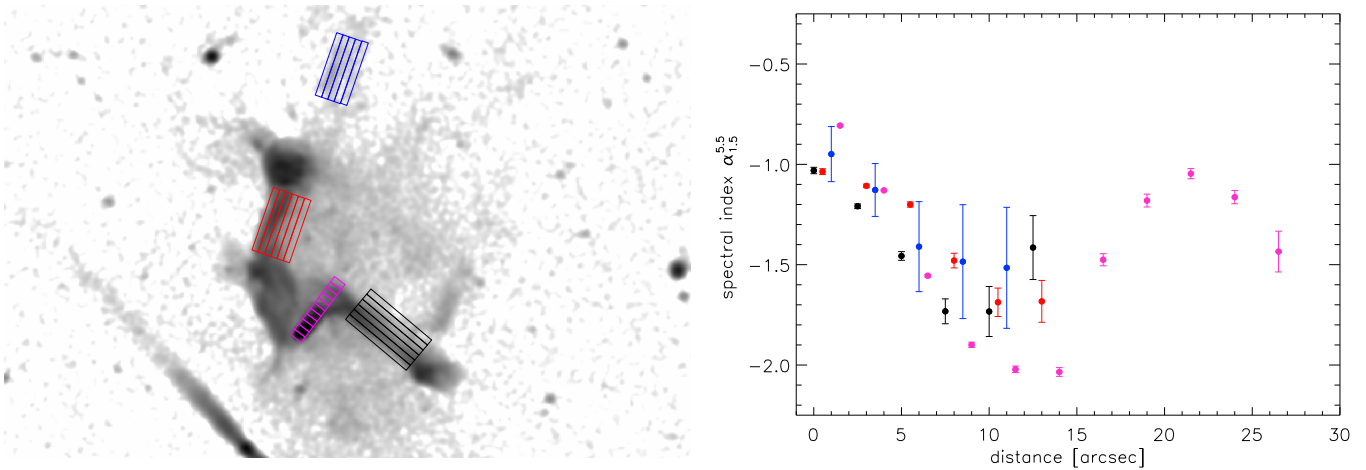


Figure 5. Left: regions where spectral indices (shown in the right panel) were extracted. The regions have a width of $2''.5$. The region's colors are matched to the colored data points in the right panel. Right: computed spectral indices between 5.5 and 1.5 GHz in the various regions indicated in the left panel (note that the 3 GHz flux densities were not used to compute the spectral indices in this figure so that we simply have a single spectral index value between the two most extreme frequency points). We used the maps at $2''.5$ resolution (which were also used to compute the spectral index maps). The distance is increasing from east to west (left to right). The errors shown on this plot only include the statistical uncertainties due to the image noise (a systematic uncertainty would affect all plotted points in the same way). The x-axis values are offset to aid the visibility.

sky background model were fixed to the values in Table 4. The ICM metallicity was fixed to $0.21 Z_{\odot}$. Figure 10 shows the resulting temperature map. An interactive version of the map, which includes uncertainties on the best-fitting spectral parameters at the 90% confidence level, is available at <https://goo.gl/KtE33D>.

In Figure 10, we show the temperature map with overlaid X-ray and radio contours. Ma et al. (2009) argued that the V-shaped region (subcluster B) contains a cool core remnant with a temperature of ~ 5 keV. However, we find no evidence of such low-temperature gas, instead measuring a temperature of ~ 12 keV in the V-shaped region. The results reported by Ma et al. (2009) were based only on ObsID 4200. Neither using only ObsID 4200, nor changing the region used to measure the temperature allowed us to obtain a temperature lower than 8 keV (with the 90% confidence level uncertainties considered). We also did a separate analysis that followed that of Ma et al. (2009) more closely: we used blank-sky event files, fitted the ICM with a MEKAL model, fixed the abundance to 0.3 solar, and fixed the absorption to $7.11 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. Again, the temperature we obtained was above 9 keV at the 90% confidence level.

Our temperature map reveals an extremely hot region in the south-southeast part of the cluster center, with a temperature $\gtrsim 20$ keV. This hot region is associated with the bar-shaped region of enhanced surface brightness seen in Figure 6. Ma et al. (2009) reported another possible cool core remnant in the western part of this region, where they measured a temperature of 8.4 ± 3.6 keV (1σ uncertainties, region A22 in their publication). This temperature was significantly lower than the temperatures reported in adjacent regions, which all had >15 keV gas. Choosing a region that approximates that of Ma et al. (2009), we measure $13.8^{+4.1}_{-3.0}$ keV (1σ uncertainties). While this temperature is consistent with that measured by Ma et al. (2009), it is also consistent with the temperatures of the adjacent regions.

In conclusion, we find temperatures above ~ 10 keV throughout the ICM, with a temperature peak of >20 keV in the X-ray bright, bar-shaped region south-southeast of the radio relic. Similarly, Mroczkowski et al. (2012) did also not report

temperatures below ~ 10 keV using *XMM-Newton* and *Chandra* observations of the cluster. Therefore, we do not confirm the temperatures of the cool regions reported by Ma et al. (2009). The V-shaped region does seem to be cooler than its immediate surroundings, but not at the level as reported by Ma et al. (2009).

4.3. Fly-through Core

Approximately 0.7 Mpc northwest from the cluster center, there is a X-ray core (Figure 11) with a tail extending ~ 200 kpc toward the southeast, roughly in the direction of the large-scale galaxy filament in the southeast. This morphology suggests that this core, seen “flying” through the ICM of MACS J0717.5+3745 and ram-pressed stripped by the cluster’s dense ICM, traveled northwest along the south-east filament and is seen after it traversed the brightest ICM regions. In essence, the core is analogous to a later stage of the group currently seen within the filament.

The core is embedded (at least in projection) in the ICM of MACS J0717.5+3745. To determine the core’s physical properties, we modeled the contamination from the ICM by extracting spectra north and south of the core. These spectra were modeled with a thermal component with a metallicity of 0.2 solar. We assumed the spectral properties were the same in the northern and southern regions. The spectra of the core were modeled as the sum of emission from the contaminating ICM and from the core itself. The spectra of the core and of the regions north and south of it were modeled in parallel. The best-fitting results are summarized in Table 6 and the regions are indicated on Figure 11. The temperature of the core, $6.82^{+1.88}_{-1.36}$ keV, is consistent with the temperatures north and south of the core, in regions that are approximately at the same distance from the cluster center as the core. We also compared the core temperature with the temperatures ahead of (north-west) and behind (southwest) the core. The temperature decreases from $10.89^{+2.05}_{-1.27}$ keV behind the core, to $5.06^{+1.61}_{-0.98}$ keV ahead of the core. From these temperature measurements, we therefore find no evidence of a core colder than its

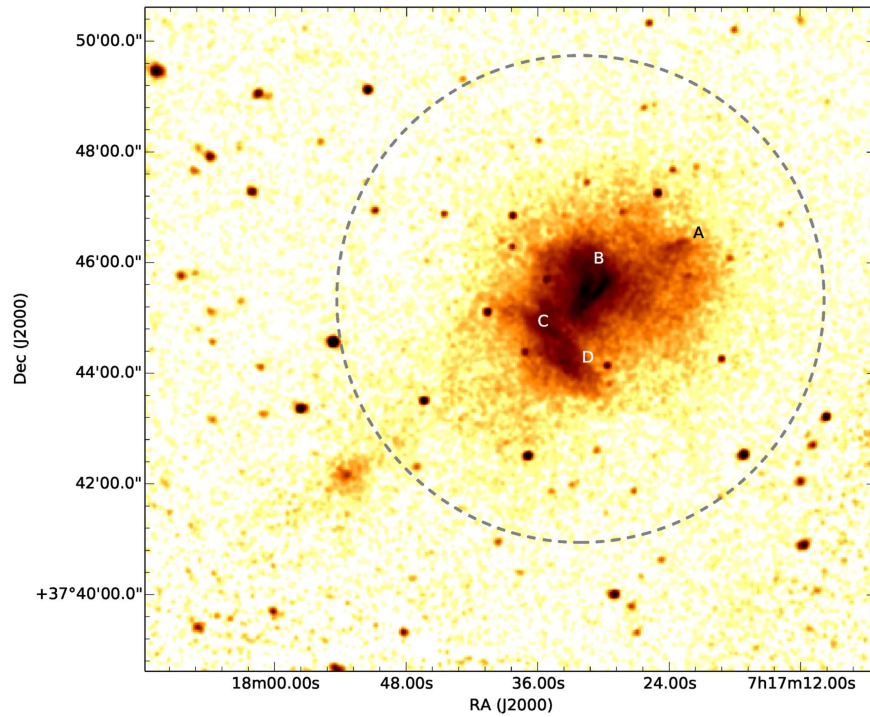


Figure 6. *Chandra* 0.5–4 keV surface brightness map of MACS J0717.5+3745. The image was vignetting- and exposure-corrected, and smoothed with a Gaussian of width $2''$. The dashed-line circle shows R_{500} for the cluster.

surroundings, nor of a temperature discontinuity (either a shock or a cold front) ahead of the core.

A cold front and a shock front would be expected ahead of the core, similarly to the features seen in the Bullet Cluster (Markevitch et al. 2002) and in front of the group NGC 4839 infalling into the Coma Cluster (Neumann et al. 2001, see also the review by Markevitch & Vikhlinin 2007). We searched for possible evidence of a cold/shock front by modeling the surface brightness profile of the group. The sector from which the surface brightness profiles was extracted is shown in Figure 12 (left panel). We chose an elliptical sector with an opening angle and ellipticity aligned with a possible edge observed by eye in the surface brightness map. The model fitted to the surface brightness profile is shown in the right panel of Figure 12. The surface brightness profile extracted from the circular sector is well-fitted by a broken power-law density model. In this profile, there is an edge near $\sim 0'.5\text{--}0'.6$. The best-fitting model has a density jump of 3.3 ± 0.4 at $\approx 0'.56$ from the center of the sector. The best-fitting parameters for the broken power-law model are summarized in Table 5.

The density discontinuity is at the very edge of the core. Therefore, we speculate that the discontinuity is associated with a cold front rather than with a shock front. The failure to find a temperature discontinuity associated with the density jump is likely due to poor count statistics and emission from hot gas projected onto the core. The latter also dilutes the observed density jump, in which case our measurement of the jump amplitude is only a lower limit.²⁷

5. Discussion

5.1. Origin of the Radio Relic

Radio relics are thought to trace relativistic electrons that are accelerated or re-accelerated at shocks. The presence of a powerful radio relic in the cluster MACS J0717.5+3745 is therefore consistent with the cluster undergoing a violent merger event. In fact, the *Chandra* temperature map indicates that the relic traces a hot shock-heated region with temperatures of ~ 20 keV and higher. If we interpret the observed spectral index trends across the relic, Figure 5, as due to electrons cooling in the post-shock region, then the shock should be located at the eastern boundary of the relic and the post-shock region is located to the west of that.

We extracted temperatures on the eastern side of the relic (T_1 , the putative pre-shock region; regions 1 and 3) and around the putative shock downstream region (T_2 ; regions 2 and 4). The regions are indicated in Figure 13. For the northern part of the relic, we find $T_1 = 20.0^{+5.1}_{-3.7}$ keV and $T_2 = 20.3^{+12.6}_{-4.6}$ keV (regions 1, 2). For the southern part, we measure $T_1 = 27.1^{+8.6}_{-5.6}$ keV and $T_2 = 16.6^{+3.1}_{-2.1}$ keV (regions 3, 4). So, it is hard to say from the temperatures where the pre- and post-shock regions are. Since the relic is at least partly located in the cluster outskirts (the R1 and R2 part) and the X-ray emissivity is roughly proportional to the density squared the *Chandra* - temperatures do not necessarily probe the actual pre- and post-shock gas but rather hot regions of higher density, with the relic projected close to it. This is particularly relevant for the southern part of the radio relic. We also do not detect any X-ray surface brightness edges associated with the relic. This might imply that the shock surface is not seen very close to edge-on and/or projection effects are important, or the Mach number is rather low.

²⁷ This applies to the situation where the emission from the hot gas exceeds the emission from outside the jump in the broken power-law model.

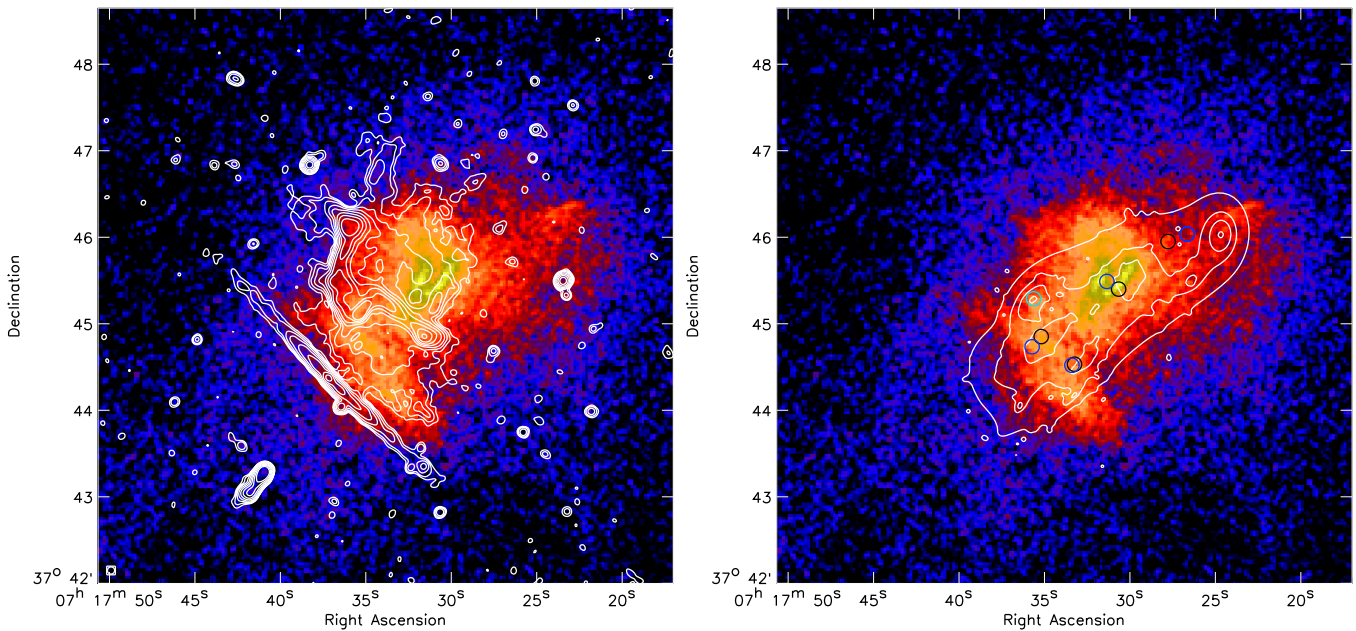


Figure 7. Left: *Chandra* 0.5–4.0 keV X-ray image. Compact sources were removed and gaps were replaced by the average surface brightness in their surroundings (with Poisson noise added). Radio contours are from the 5'' resolution image and drawn at $[1, 2, 4, \dots] \times 4\sigma_{\text{rms}}$. Right: same image as in the left panel but with the convergence map $\kappa = \frac{\Sigma}{\Sigma_{\text{cr}}}$ (with Σ_{cr} the (critical) mass surface density) overlaid from Ishigaki et al. (2015). Contour levels are drawn at $\kappa = [1, 1.5, 2, 4] \times 0.8$. The positions of several mass components from Johnson et al. (2014) and Limousin et al. (2016) are indicated with black and blue circles, respectively. The cyan circle corresponds to an individual (massive) cluster galaxy (Johnson et al. 2014).

Therefore, we conclude that given the complexity of the merger event and unknown projection effects, the precise relation between the relic and location of the hot gas remains uncertain.

5.1.1. Acceleration Mechanisms

For relics, an important question is by which mechanism the synchrotron emitting electrons are accelerated. The standard scenario proposed by Enßlin et al. (1998) is that particles are accelerated at shocks via the DSA mechanism. A problem with this scenario is that shocks in clusters generally have Mach number of $\mathcal{M} \lesssim 3$ and the acceleration of electrons from the thermal pool is thought to be very inefficient for these low Mach numbers, in apparent conflict with the presence of bright radio relics. In this case, an unrealistic fraction of the energy flux through the shock surface (Macario et al. 2011; Eckert et al. 2016; van Weeren et al. 2016a) needs to be converted to the non-thermal electron population.

The DSA mechanism should also accelerate protons to relativistic energies. These protons then interact with the thermal gas to produce γ rays. Vazza & Brüggén (2014) and Vazza et al. (2015, 2016) show that the observed γ -ray upper limits are in tension with the relative acceleration efficiency of electrons and protons that is expected from DSA. Tension with DSA has also been found from the discrepancy between the measured Mach numbers from X-ray observations and the radio spectral index (see Equation (3)) for some relics (e.g., Akamatsu et al. 2015; Itahana et al. 2015; van Weeren et al. 2016a).

PIC simulations show that electrons can be accelerated from the thermal pool via the SDA mechanism, which would solve some of the problems with DSA (Guo et al. 2014a, 2014b; Caprioli & Spitkovsky 2014). Another model to solve the low acceleration efficiency of standard DSA is that of

re-acceleration of fossil electrons (e.g., Markevitch et al. 2005; Giacintucci et al. 2008; Kang & Ryu 2011; Kang et al. 2012; Pinzke et al. 2013). These fossil electrons could, for example, originate from the (old) lobes of radio galaxies. Indeed, observations provide some support for this scenario because of the complex morphologies of some relics, suggesting a link with a nearby radio galaxy in a few select cases (Giovannini et al. 1991; van Weeren et al. 2013; Bonafede et al. 2014; Shimwell et al. 2015). The most compelling case for re-acceleration has been found in the merging cluster Abell 3411-3412 (van Weeren et al. 2017). Here, a tailed radio galaxy is seen connected to a relic. In addition, spectral flattening is observed at the location where the fossil plasma meets the relic and at the same location an X-ray surface brightness edge is observed.

5.1.2. Evidence for Re-acceleration in MACS J0717.5+3745

We argue that the NAT galaxy in MACS J0717.5+3745 provides another compelling case for particle re-acceleration because (1) the NAT galaxy is a spectroscopically confirmed cluster member, (2) we observe a morphological connection between the relic and NAT source, (3) there is evidence for hot shock-heated gas at the location of the radio relic (with the caveat of unknown projection effects), and (4) we can trace the spectral index across the tails of this galaxy until they fade into the relic. After fading into the relic the spectral index flattens again (Figure 5, right panel, magenta points), as is expected in the case of re-acceleration.

For a NAT source, we expect to start with a power-law radio spectrum, the radio spectrum then steepens progressively along the tails of the NAT source due to synchrotron and IC losses. Apart from spectral steepening, the spectral curvature should also increase along the tails due to these energy losses. When the fossil electrons pass through the shock, they are

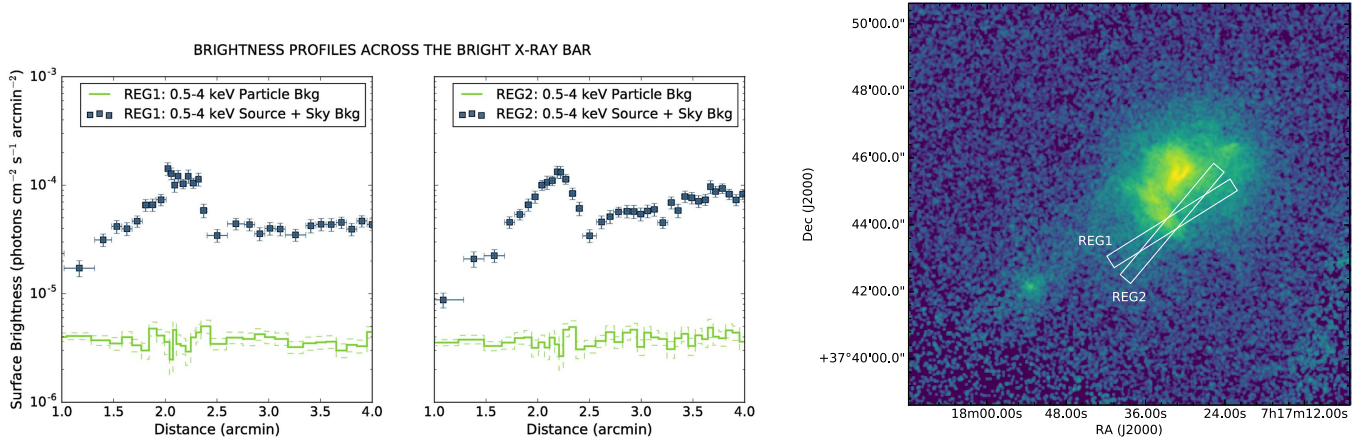


Figure 8. X-ray surface brightness profiles across the bar (southeast to northwest) in two regions as indicated in the right panel. The bar shows a hint of an edge on its western side, located at a distance of about $2\frac{1}{4}$. The instrumental background is shown in green, with the uncertainty ranges on the background shown in dashed green lines.

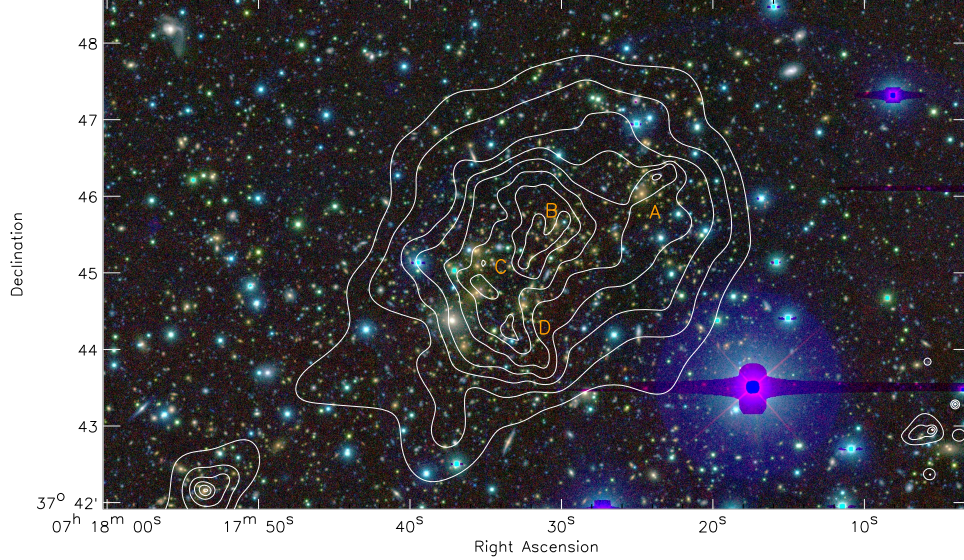


Figure 9. Subaru B, I, and CFHT Ks band color image of MACS J0717.5+3745 (Medezinski et al. 2013; Umetsu et al. 2014). *Chandra* 0.5–4.0 keV contours, adaptively smoothed (Ebeling et al. 2006), from Figure 7 are overlaid. The contour levels are spaced according to $\propto (n)^{4/3}$, with $n = [1, 2, 3, \dots]$. The subclusters A–D are labeled as in Ma et al. (2009).

re-accelerated and the spectral index flattens again. In MACS J0717.5+3745 we observe this expected trend.

In the case of re-acceleration, the radio injection spectral index is set by the Mach number of the shock, unless the index of the fossil distribution is flatter than what would be produced by the re-acceleration process. Following Markevitch et al. (2005), we start with a power-law momentum fossil electron distribution

$$f_{\text{fossil}}(p) \propto p^{-s_{\text{fossil}}}, \quad (1)$$

the distribution after re-acceleration (not considering energy losses) can be given by

$$f_{\text{inj, re}}(p) \propto p^{-s_{\text{inj, re}}}. \quad (2)$$

For DSA, the injection index is given by

$$s_{\text{inj, dsa}} = 2 \frac{\mathcal{M}^2 + 1}{\mathcal{M}^2 - 1}. \quad (3)$$

The distribution after re-acceleration can now be described as follows. If $s_{\text{fossil}} < s_{\text{inj, dsa}}$, then $s_{\text{inj, re}} = s_{\text{fossil}}$. Thus for weak shocks, or a flat distribution of fossil plasma, the shape of the radio spectrum will be preserved under re-acceleration. If $s_{\text{fossil}} > s_{\text{inj, dsa}}$, we have $s_{\text{inj, re}} = s_{\text{inj, dsa}}$, so a spectral shape is what we would normally expect from DSA. Note that the radio spectral index is related to electron momentum distribution (with index s) as $\alpha = -(s - 1)/2$. In summary, for re-acceleration the index of the momentum distribution is given by

$$s_{\text{inj, re}} = \begin{cases} s_{\text{fossil}} & \text{for } s_{\text{fossil}} < 2 \frac{\mathcal{M}^2 + 1}{\mathcal{M}^2 - 1} \\ s_{\text{inj, dsa}} & \text{for } s_{\text{fossil}} > 2 \frac{\mathcal{M}^2 + 1}{\mathcal{M}^2 - 1} \end{cases}. \quad (4)$$

At the location where the NAT source in MACS J0717.5+3745 fades into the relic, the spectral index is steep with $\alpha \lesssim -2$ ($s \gtrsim 5$) and that would suggest that we are in the regime $s_{\text{fossil}} > s_{\text{inj, dsa}}$ and the spectral index of the relic follows what would be expected in the case of DSA. If the spectral

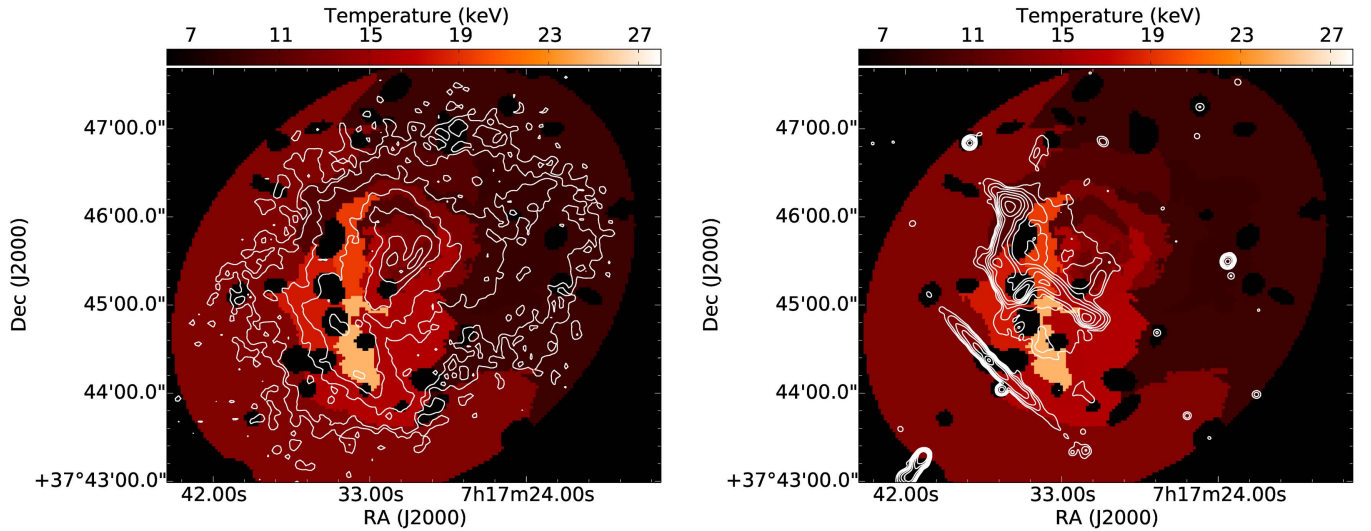


Figure 10. Temperature map of MACS J0717.5+3745. Overlaid are *Chandra* 0.5–4 keV surface brightness contours (left; based on the image in Figure 6) and JVLA radio contours (right; from Figure 3 middle panel). X-ray contours are drawn at $[0.013, 0.026, 0.052, 0.104, 0.208, 0.416, 0.832, 1.664] \times 10^{-6}$ photons $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. The radio contours are drawn at $[1, 2, 3 \dots] \times 4\sigma_{\text{rms}}$.

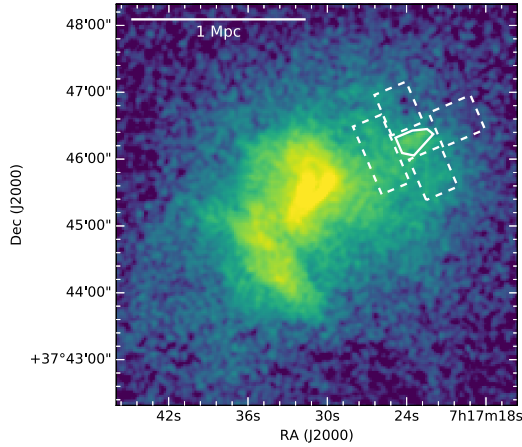


Figure 11. Regions used in the spectral analysis. The regions of main interest are drawn in solid lines, while the regions used to characterize the contaminating/surrounding emission are drawn in dashed lines. The best-fitting parameters obtained for the gas in these regions are listed in Table 6.

index is set by the Mach number, we would need at least a shock with $\mathcal{M} = 2.7$ ($\alpha_{\text{inj}} = -0.8$). The (current) X-ray observations do not allow us to measure the Mach number, but given the very high gas temperatures, the presence of a shock with $\mathcal{M} \gtrsim 2.7$ cannot be excluded. On the other hand, an $\mathcal{M} = 2.7$ shock would correspond to a factor ~ 8 increase in the surface brightness, which should be detectable (unless the shock surface has a very complex shape). Alternatively, we are not in the “DSA regime” and the shock has a lower Mach number and is therefore more difficult to detect.

5.1.3. Shape of the Fossil Electron Distribution Before Re-acceleration

Above, we assumed that the fossil electron distribution is that of a power law. A more realistic fossil electron distribution is that of a spectrum that has undergone synchrotron and IC losses. This would change the resulting distribution after re-acceleration from a simple power law (Hong et al. 2015; Kang

& Ryu 2015, 2016). Our radio observations allow us to measure the shape of the electron fossil distribution, see Figure 14.

According to Kang & Ryu (2015), the spectrum can be approximated by a power-law distribution with some exponential cutoff at frequency ν_{break} . We fix the injection spectral index to $\alpha_{\text{inj}} = -0.5$. The observed spectra do not show evidence for a strong spectral break. In Figure 14 we plot a model with $\nu_{\text{break}} = 2$ GHz. This lack of a spectral cutoff indicates that the spectral ageing is more complex (e.g., spatially varying magnetic fields) or that there is mixing of radio emission with different spectra within our measurement regions. This mixing reduces the curvature and moves the spectra closer to power-law shapes (e.g., van Weeren et al. 2012). Therefore the curvature of the fossil particle spectrum remains unclear, but we can at least conclude that the spectrum is steep. The shape of the fossil distribution will be important input for future modeling and simulations (e.g., Hong et al. 2015; Kang & Ryu 2015).

5.2. Origin of the Radio Halo and Filamentary Structures

An interesting question concerns the origin and nature of the radio filaments in the general radio halo area. Are these embedded in the radio halo emission, tracing regions with increased turbulence, or are they similar to the large relics that trace (re)-accelerated particles at shocks? In the second scenario, an additional question is whether they trace shocks in the denser regions of the ICM or shocks in the cluster outskirts (and in which case they can be projected onto the cluster center and radio halo region). The filaments could also only be regions of enhanced magnetic fields, i.e., flux tubes or large-scale strands of field.

It seems that a shock-origin is preferred, at least for some of the filaments. There are several reasons for this: (1) the northern filament (above R1), which is located in the cluster outskirts, shows an EW spectral index gradient and has a well defined eastern boundary; and (2) the filament above R4 is connected with the main radio relic. So at least two of these filaments are probably not directly associated with the radio

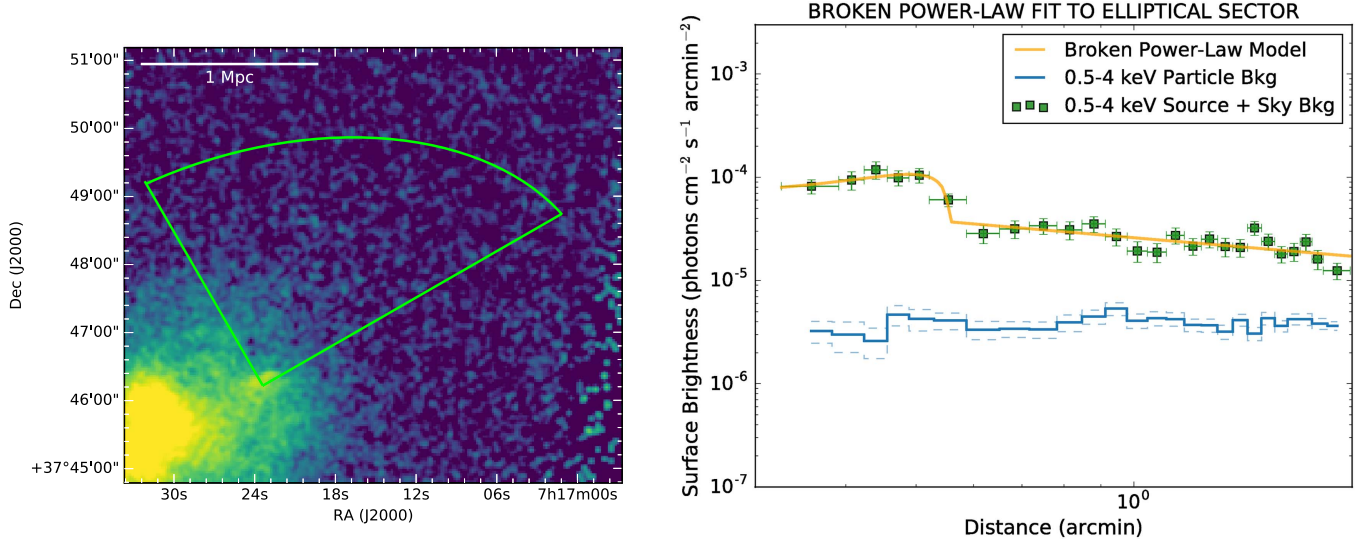


Figure 12. Left: sector used to model the surface brightness profile in front of the core. Right: surface brightness profiles and best-fitting model. The instrumental background is shown in blue, with the uncertainty ranges on the background shown in dashed blue lines. For the elliptical sector, the surface brightness is plotted against the major axis of the ellipse. The best-fitting parameters of the broken power-law model are listed in Table 5.

Table 5
Best-fitting Parameters of the Broken Power-law Model Fitted to the Surface Brightness of the Core

α_1^a	α_2^b	Normalization (photons cm ⁻² s ⁻¹ arcmin ⁻²)	r_{break} (arcmin)	n_1/n_2^c	Sky background (photons cm ⁻² s ⁻¹ arcmin ⁻²)
$-0.45^{+1.3}_{-1.5}$	$1.05^{+0.11}_{-0.10}$	$6.34^{+1.47}_{-1.18} \times 10^{-4}$	$0.56^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$3.27^{+0.44}_{-0.46}$	$(1.30 \pm 0.14) \times 10^{-6}$

Notes. Uncertainties are quoted at the 1σ level. The region from which the surface brightness profile was extracted, as well as the profile and best-fitting model, are shown in Figure 12.

^a Power-law index at $r < r_{\text{break}}$.

^b Power-law index at $r > r_{\text{break}}$.

^c Density jump across the discontinuity.

Table 6

Parameters of the Regions Used for the Spectral Analysis of the Fly-through Core

Model Component	Temperature ^a	Normalization ^b
Core	$6.82^{+1.88}_{-1.36}$	$3.41^{+0.29}_{-0.25} \times 10^{-4}$
N+S of Core	$7.47^{+1.11}_{-0.86}$	$2.08^{+0.77}_{-0.78} \times 10^{-4}$
Ahead of Core	$5.06^{+1.61}_{-0.98}$	$8.52^{+0.88}_{-0.77} \times 10^{-5}$
Behind Core	$10.89^{+2.05}_{-1.27}$	$3.92^{+0.10}_{-0.09} \times 10^{-4}$

Notes. The regions are shown in Figure 11. Uncertainties are quoted at 1σ level.

^a Units of keV.

^b Units of cm⁻⁵ arcmin⁻² for the thermal components, and photons keV⁻¹ cm⁻² s⁻¹ arcmin⁻² at 1 keV for the power-law components.

halo. In addition, it is possible that the regions indicated with the white dashed-line circles (Figure 3) are additional filaments but projected closer to face-on. However, they could also just be regions of enhanced magnetic fields.

Polarization measurements would provide additional information on the filaments. A high ($\gtrsim 20\%$) polarization fraction would indicate aligned magnetic fields due to shock compression. Measurements of the Faraday dispersion function (and rotation measure) would allow us to check if the filaments are located in the cluster outskirts on the nearside. Filaments

located deep inside the ICM should show higher Faraday rotation, although this would also be the case for filaments located on the far side of the cluster. We defer a polarization analysis for this cluster to future work.

5.3. Merger Scenario

MACS J0717.5+3745 consists of at least four merging subclusters, as indicated in Figure 9. Subcluster B, corresponding to the V-shaped structure in the *Chandra* images, has a large line-of-sight velocity of about 3200 km s⁻¹ away from us. We speculate that the V-shape could be related to a bullet-like structure seen under a large projection angle. This would also explain the lack of an offset between the X-ray gas, dark matter, and galaxies and is consistent with the large radial velocity component and the detected kinetic SZ signal (Mroczkowski et al. 2012; Sayers et al. 2013). Interestingly, the radio filament above R4 is aligned with the V-shape and is located immediately to the south of it. This could just be a chance alignment. Another possibility is that this filament traces the shock ahead of subcluster B.

For subcluster D, the galaxy and dark matter peaks are located about 0.4 northwest from the X-ray peak of the subcluster. An offset in this direction would be expected due to the effect of ram pressure on the gas (as also suggested by Ma et al. 2009), if subcluster D fell in from the large-scale galaxy

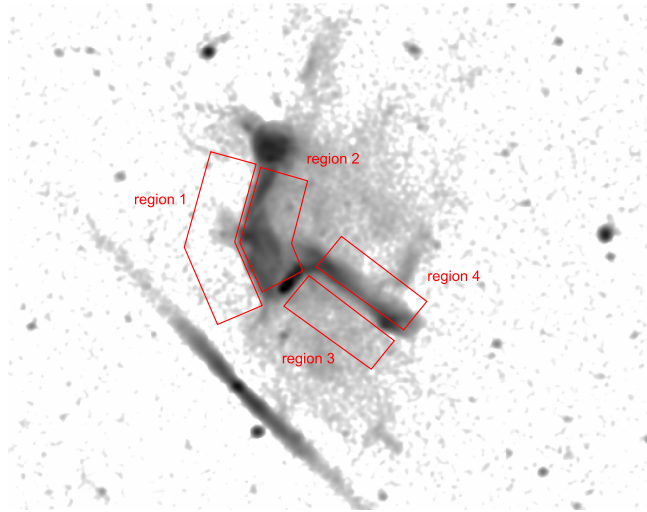


Figure 13. Regions where we extracted the temperatures on top of the wide-band 1.0–6.5 GHz radio image.

filament to the southeast. No clear offset between the X-ray peak and dark matter peak is seen for subcluster C. Adam et al. (2016) reported the detection of a kinetic SZ signal from subcluster C, with an opposite line-of-sight velocity with respect to subcluster B.

Ma et al. (2009) suggested that subcluster A (the fly-through core) fell in from the northwest. However, the detection of an X-ray edge to the north-northeast, likely a merger related cold front, suggests that the cluster fell in from the southeast and the X-ray gas is moving to the north-northwest. This direction would be consistent with infall from the large-scale filament to the southeast. Its elongated shape indicates it is currently in the process of being ram pressure stripped (see Section 4.3). The associated BCG is located slightly (0.2–0.3) to the southeast of the X-ray peak. This is different from the situation in the bullet Cluster (Clowe et al. 2006), where the galaxies lead the bullet. This could imply that the dark matter and galaxies are already past pericenter and in the “return phase” of the merger (Ng et al. 2015). Interestingly, the dark matter peak is located even further to the east (as reported by e.g., Johnson et al. 2014; Limousin et al. 2016), although other lensing models show better agreement between the BCG location and mass surface density (e.g., Ishigaki et al. 2015). From a core size of about 0.4 (≈ 150 kpc) and a temperature of 6.8 keV, we compute a sound crossing time of 1×10^8 year for the core. If the X-ray emission is indeed displaced from the dark matter the X-ray clump will disperse over the next $\sim 10^8$ year (assuming there is no dark matter to hold it together).

6. Conclusions

We presented deep JVLA and *Chandra* observations of the *HST* Frontier Fields cluster MACS J0717.5+3745. The radio and X-ray observations show a complex merger event, involving multiple subclusters. Below we summarize our findings.

1. The X-ray temperature map shows that the eastern part of the cluster is significantly hotter than the western part. In the central southeastern part of the cluster the temperatures exceed ~ 20 keV. The hot eastern part of the cluster coincides with the location of the radio halo and relic.

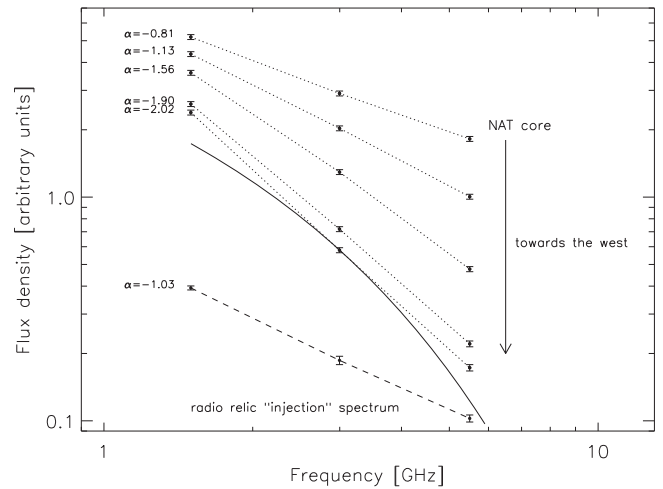


Figure 14. Radio spectra across the NAT source at the center of the relic. The normalizations for all spectra are arbitrary. The upper five spectra are extracted in the magenta regions indicated in Figure 5, starting at the easternmost region. The dotted lines are to guide the eye and connect the flux density measurements at 1.5, 3.0, and 5.5 GHz. The solid black line corresponds to a power-law model with an exponential cutoff with $\nu_{\text{break}} = 2$ GHz. The model spectrum is normalized at our 3.0 GHz flux density measurement. The bottom spectrum, represented by the dashed line, was computed by combining the fluxes from the easternmost relic regions with black and red colors (see Figure 5). These parts of the relic contain the flattest spectral indices and thus likely come closest to resembling the radio relic “injection spectrum.” Spectral index values, between 1.5 and 5.5 GHz, are shown to the left of the spectra.

2. We find no evidence for the ICM temperatures significantly less than 10 keV that were reported by Ma et al. (2009).
3. The northwest subcluster displays a ram pressure-stripped core, with a surface brightness edge to the north-northeast. We speculate that this edge is likely a merger related cold front.
4. We find evidence that the radio relic in MACS J0717.5+3745 is powered by shock re-acceleration of fossil electrons from a nearby NAT source.
5. We find an overall east–west spectral index gradient across the radio relic, with the spectral index steepening toward the west.
6. We do not detect density or temperatures jumps associated with the radio relic, which could be the result of the complex merger geometry. Alternatively, for re-acceleration the shock Mach number could be lower than the $\mathcal{M} = 2.7$ calculated from the radio spectral index.
7. We find several radio filaments in the cluster with sizes of about 100–300 kpc. At least a few of these are located in the cluster outskirts. That would suggest the filaments are tracing shock waves (and can thus be classified as a small radio relics). Polarization observations should provide more information about the origin and location of these filaments within the ICM.

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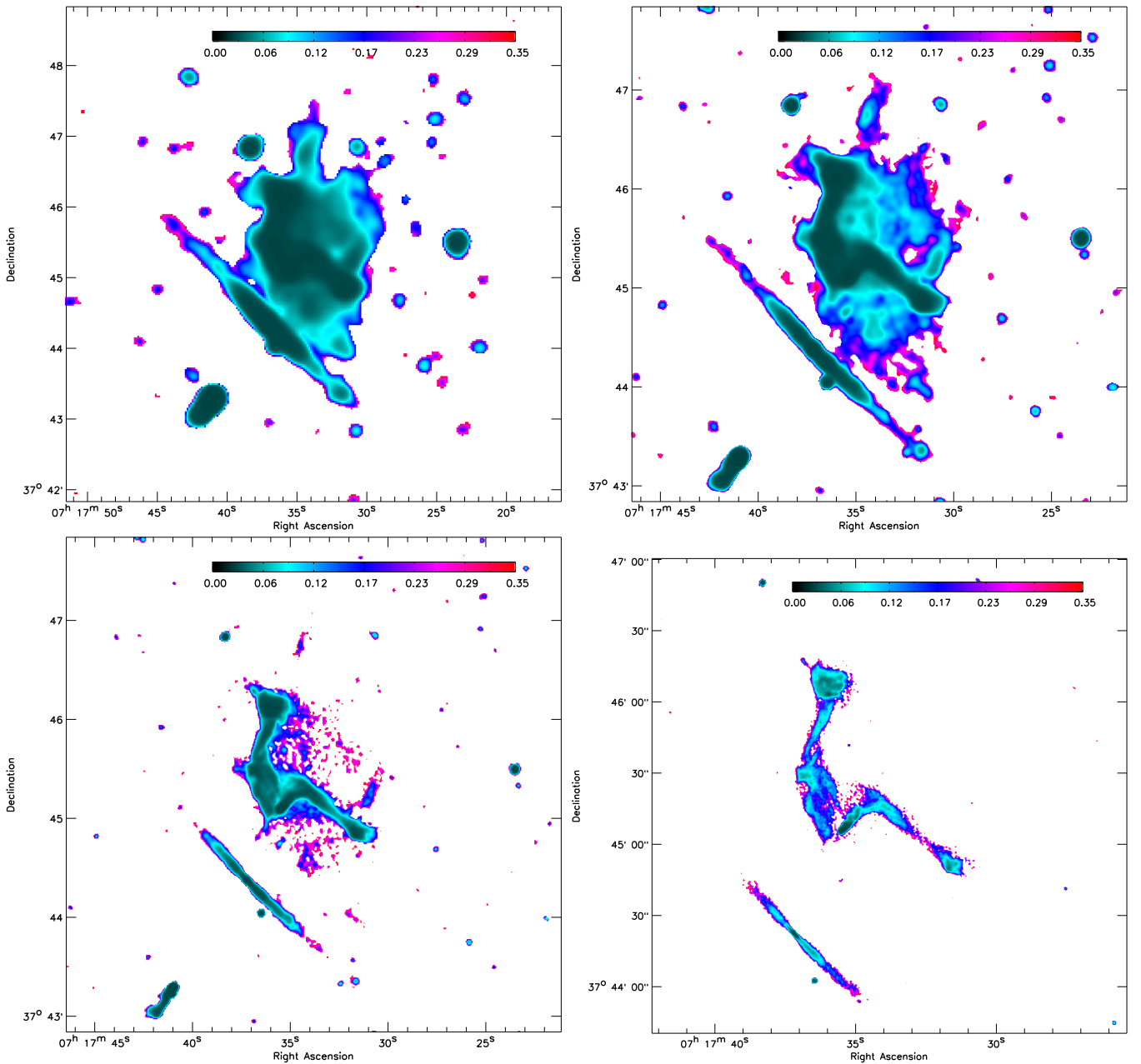


Figure 15. Spectral index uncertainty maps, corresponding to Figure 4, at resolutions of $10''$, $5''$, $2''/5$, and $1''/2$.

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Facilities: VLA, CXO.

Appendix Spectral Index Uncertainty Maps

Spectral index uncertainty maps are shown in Figure 15 corresponding to power-law fits through flux measurements at 1.5, 3.0, and 5.5 GHz. The errors are based on the individual rms noise values in the maps and an absolute flux calibration uncertainty of 2.5% at each of the three frequencies.

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